

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 2 and 3 and add Fig. 7. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 2; 3 and 4; and 5-7, replace the original sheets including Fig. 1 and 2; 3 and 4; and 5 and 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claim 10.

The outstanding Office Action objected to the specification, drawings, and Claim 10 because of informalities. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1-9, 11 and 13-14 were allowed and Claim 10 was indicated as allowable if the noted informalities were corrected.

In response to the objection of Claim 10, Claim 10 is amended as suggested by the Examiner to correct the noted informalities.

In response to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a Letter Submitting Drawing Sheets along with 3 Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1 and 2; 3 and 4; and 5-7. Specifically, the Replacement Sheet for Figs. 1-2 adds the appropriate "Prior Art" legends. The Replacement Sheet for Figs. 3-4 includes Fig. 3, which is amended to show a non-limiting example of a stiffening reinforcement 31, as recited in Claim 5. Non-limiting examples of channels that open out into the bottoms of the bathtubs, which are recited in Claim 10, are shown in Fig. 1 as dotted lines. The Replacement Sheet for Figs. 5-7 includes Fig. 6, which is amended to show a non-limiting example of a tie such as a hoop or a band 40 and an adhesive 42, as recited in Claim 12. The Replacement Sheet for Figs. 5-7 includes Fig. 7, which is added to show a non-limiting example of a divergent inside surface of the casing 14 facing the stubs 26, as recited in Claim 13.

Further, the specification is amended to be consistent with the drawing changes. Specifically, the specification is amended at page 4 to add a brief description of new Fig. 7, at

page 6 to recite reference numerals for the reinforcement (31), the adhesive (42) and the hoop or band (4) now shown in the figures. In light of their formal nature, the changes to Claim 10, the drawings and the specification do not raise a question of new matter.

In response to the objection to the specification at page 6, lines 32-35 and the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicant respectfully points out that this passage of the specification and Claim 12 indicate that the stubs are held on the tips of the blades by adhesive or by a tie surrounding the blades, "*for assembly purposes*," and "*for mounting purposes*." In other words, the stubs are temporarily held on the tips of the blades for mounting purposes, the tie being withdrawn after mounting and the adhesive being eliminated when starting the turbine. Thus, Claim 12 (and the corresponding passage from the specification) is not contradictory with other claims and passages of the specification reciting that the stubs are mounted in a radially slidable manner. In view of the above explanations, it is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejection on that basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

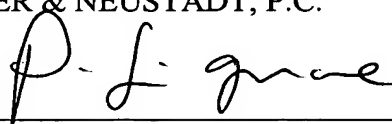
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-14 is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2005

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 43,922

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)